

Amendments to the claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A printing plate comprising a raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) for transferring printing substance (~~17~~) to a printing substrate (~~10~~), said raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) including, on its printing surface, a groove (~~3~~) passing through from one side to another thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 1, wherein said groove (~~3~~) has a nearly-triangular cross section.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said grooves (~~3~~) extend in one direction and parallel to each other and are equally spaced apart.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 3, being a printing plate (~~1~~) for a flexographic press, wherein

said groove (~~3~~) has a width (~~7~~) along the printing surface of said raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm , a depth (~~8~~) of not less than 25 μm and not more than 75 μm , and a distance (~~6~~) between the grooves of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm .

Claim 5 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 4, said printing plate (~~1~~) including said raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) shaped as a nearly-rectangular frame, wherein a side of said near-rectangle is parallel to a longitudinal direction of said groove (~~3~~), and said raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) is provided such that said side of said near-rectangle is in a slanting direction relative to a moving direction of said printing plate (~~1~~).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 4, said printing plate (1) including said raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) shaped as a nearly-rectangular frame, wherein a side of said near-rectangle and a longitudinal direction of said groove (3) form an angle of approximately 45°.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 6, wherein a moving direction of said printing plate (1) is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of said groove (~~3~~).

Claim 8 (currently amended): The printing plate according to claim 6, wherein the moving direction of said printing plate (1) is substantially parallel to the longitudinal direction of said groove (~~3~~).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A press comprising said printing plate (1) according to ~~one of~~ claims 1 to 8 claim 1.

Claim 10 (currently amended): An apparatus for manufacturing a liquid crystal device comprising said printing plate (1) according to ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~ claim 1.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of relief printing comprising:
the step of printing by pressing, on a printing substrate (~~10~~), a printing plate (1) including a raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~),
said raised part (~~2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d~~) having, on a surface for transferring printing substance (~~17~~), a plurality of grooves (3) passing through from one side to another thereof; and
the step of transferring printing substance to the printing substrate (~~10~~) by disposing said printing plate (1) on a perimeter surface of a cylindrical plate cylinder (~~12~~) and rotating said plate cylinder (~~12~~).

Claim 12 (original): The printing method according to claim 11, performed by using a flexographic press.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The printing method according to claim 12, wherein said raised part ~~(2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d)~~ is shaped as a nearly-rectangular frame, said grooves ~~(3)~~ are linear grooves ~~(3)~~ parallel to each other and equally spaced apart, and the printing substance ~~(17)~~ to be printed onto said printing substrate ~~(10)~~ is a sealing material.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The printing method according to claim 13, wherein said sealing material is a sealing material for a flat panel display, said grooves ~~(3)~~ have a width along a surface of said raised parts ~~(2, 13a, 13b, 13c, 13d)~~ of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm , a depth of not less than 25 μm and not more than 75 μm , and a distance ~~(6)~~ between the grooves ~~(3)~~ of not less than 20 μm and not more than 60 μm .

Claim 15 (currently amended): The printing method according to claim 14, wherein said step of transferring includes the step of rotating said plate cylinder ~~(12)~~ while using said printing plate ~~(1)~~ with said grooves ~~(3)~~ being parallel with a side of said near-rectangle, a moving direction of said printing plate ~~(1)~~ forming an angle of approximately 45° with a longitudinal direction of said grooves ~~(3)~~.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The printing method according to claim 14, wherein said step of transferring includes the step of rotating said plate cylinder ~~(12)~~ while using said printing plate ~~(1)~~ with said grooves ~~(3)~~ forming an angle of approximately 45° with a side of said near-rectangle, a moving direction of said printing plate ~~(1)~~ being substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said grooves ~~(3)~~.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The printing method according to claim 14, wherein said step of transferring includes the step of rotating said plate cylinder ~~(12)~~ while using said printing plate ~~(1)~~ with said grooves ~~(3)~~ forming an angle of approximately 45° with a side of said near-

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rectangle, a moving direction of said printing plate ~~(1)~~ being parallel to a longitudinal direction of said grooves ~~(3)~~.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method of manufacturing a liquid crystal device employing the printing method according to ~~one of claims 11 to 17~~ claim 11.